

(12) Agricultural Banks should be established and worked under the supervision of the proposed Agricultural Boards.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

**42. The means and measures necessary for the stability and improvement of puncha cultivation in Kuttanad.**

*Mr. K. O. Madhavan Pillai* (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that the lands in Kuttanad, unlike those of Nanjanad, could not be artificially manured. The alluvial deposit from the river was carried to the distant *puncha* lands by certain canals dug by the people years ago. Those canals had now been encroached upon in many places, and even the portions left were in a very neglected condition, being mostly silted up. The manurial deposit from the river could not therefore reach the *puncha* lands. Another obstacle to *puncha* cultivation came from the owners of lands adjoining the river, who raised up those lands and converted them into coconut gardens, thereby shutting out all chances of the manure from the river finding its way to the *puncha* fields. There was also culpable neglect on the part of land-owners in maintaining the bunds of paddy lands properly. As it was imperative that such impediments to *puncha* cultivation should be at once removed, the Member suggested that an enactment should be passed and land-owners should be required to take permission from the Tahsildar to convert wet lands into gardens. They should also be compelled to strengthen their bunds and the omission to do so should be made penal. There should be provision to enable the owners injuriously affected by such neglect to do the needful works themselves and recover the cost from the men at fault. He also suggested that steps should be taken to remove the encroachments on the canals, wherever they were shown on the map. But many canals, not on the map, were even more useful for agriculture. They should be ascertained during the Land Records Maintenance and restored to their original condition, in consultation with the Director of Agriculture.

The Member next said that the 500 acres of land proposed to be set apart in Prakattukari to serve as a grazing ground was quite inadequate to meet requirements. At least 2,000 acres should be reserved there for the purpose.

The next requirement was in the matter of medical aid for diseased cattle. The nearest veterinary hospital was the one at Kottayam and that was of no use to the ryots of Kuttanad. The *puncha* lands extended, from east to west, over a distance of 18 miles. Three veterinary hospitals should therefore be established for the area, one each at the eastern and western extremities, and one in the centre. It was also necessary to establish a few cattle-pounds in convenient centres in the locality.

The Member lastly referred to the difficulty of strengthening the *chiravarambu* (bunds) of lands reclaimed from the Vembanad lake. Branches and leaves (ചവറ) were required for the purpose. He requested that small hills in the vicinity should be reserved and the material needed made available to the ryots at a moderate price.

*Dewan's reply.*—The Director of Agriculture will be asked to report on the suggestions of the Member.

**43. Certain suggestions in regard to the system of irrigation in South Travancore.**

*Mr. M. Subramonia Pillai* (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) said that, since notifying his subject, he read the G. O. settling the date of opening the Kodayar Reservoir. Under that, the ryots got a concession of about 12 days in the matter of the water-supply. He had therefore been specially asked to drop the discussion of that point for the present, and, on behalf of the Nanjanad people, he conveyed to the Government their hearty thanks for the concession given.

He next referred to the floods in the Pazhayar, and said that they were of frequent occurrence and destroyed hundreds of acres of paddy lands every year.